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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Washington: "Turkey Doesn't Own Iraq" -Hurriyet  
Feith: "Iraqi Integrity Should Be Preserved" -Hurriyet  
A Key Test for Rice - Sabah  
Bomb Panic in Incirlik - Sabah  
British Ambassador Westmacott to Turkey: "We are Aware of  
Your Worries" - Milliyet  
Ankara Visit Is A Key Test for Rice - Milliyet  
US Press: "Rice Has A Difficult Mission in Turkey" - Turkiye  
Ankara Summit for Rice and Lavrov - Turkiye  
FM Gul: "The US Should Do More to Eliminate Terrorists in  
Northern Iraq" - Turkiye  
TGS Intelligence Report: "Kurdish Armed Forces To Be  
Established in Iraq" - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Kurds in Iraq Happy about the Election Results - Radikal  
US-Russian Summit in Ankara - Radikal  
Election Fiasco Confession from Iraqi Interim Government -  
Cumhuriyet  
Iraq Warning from Gul to US - Yeni Safak  
From Gul to US: "Take Action for Kirkuk" - Zaman

BRIEFING

Pentagon Undersecretary Feith Comments: In an interview  
with "Hurriyet," Pentagon Undersecretary Douglas Feith said  
'Turkish views about Iraq are considered important by the US  
and always taken into account in US policies'. In response  
to a question about Turkish concerns for the Iraqi  
elections, Feith said that the Kirkuk problem ought to be  
solved by the Iraqi people and that the US supports the  
preservation of Iraqi integrity.

SecState Rice's Upcoming Visit: All papers report about the  
upcoming visit of the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
to Turkey. "Vatan", "Posta" and "Milliyet" cite 'The  
International Herald Tribune' as source to say that 'in a  
way this visit will be a key test for the Secretary in her  
efforts to ease the tension in Turkish-US relations'.  
"Radikal" and "Turkiye" report about the meeting that will  
take place in Ankara on Saturday night with Rice and the  
Russian FM Lavrov. Rice and Lavrov will discuss  
preparations for a summit between US President Bush and  
Russian President Putin in Slovakia on February 24.

Turkey Seeks British Support for the Problems in Iraq:  
"Milliyet" reports that Turkey  
seeks British support to convey its concerns about Iraq to  
the US Administration. Within this framework, Turkish envoy  
to Iraq Osman Koruturk recently held high-level meetings in  
London. British Ambassador to Ankara Peter Westmacott told  
"Milliyet" that his country understands the concerns Turkey  
has over Iraq and has already issued the necessary warnings  
to the Kurds.

Turkish General Staff (TGS) Intelligence Report about Iraq:  
"Aksam" reports that according to a TGS intelligence report,  
Barzani and Talabani are planning to join their Peshmerge  
forces in order to establish Kurdish Armed Forces in Iraq.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; The Middle East

"US-Turkey and Iraq"

Ali Sirmen commented in the leftist-opinion maker  
"Cumhuriyet" (2/3): "Not only Turks, but also American  
strategists admit the fact that Washington does not care

about Turkey's concerns about northern Iraq. The US declared the PKK as a terrorist organization, but took no action and assumed no responsibility even though the area is under American control. The US continues to commit itself to the territorial integrity of Iraq, but it only stands by and watches statements from Talabani and Barzani that tell a very different story. . The Kurdish card is no longer just a US policy option for the Middle East and Iraq - it now must be taken as a given. The US will not give up the Kurdish issue as its `trump card' in both the Iraqi political process and the Broader Middle East Initiative. Given these facts, it would be very wrong for Turkey to be reluctant to pursue a firm policy on Iraq out of fear that it may clash with Washington. Turkey should not underestimate its influence as a regional power, because any implementation of American policy that does not take Turkey into account will eventually harm the interests of both Ankara and Washington."

"Finally, Diplomacy is at Work in Middle East"

Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/3):

"Egypt has conducted a kind of silent diplomacy that successfully paved the way for the upcoming Israel-Palestine summit next Tuesday. The fact that this summit is taking place is historically important, because for the first time in four years the leaders of Israel and Palestine will have a face-to-face meeting. There won't be an agreement like the one at Camp David, but if the summit can at least provide a consensus on a ceasefire and joint security measures and open the door for a peace process, it should be considered a big success. Both leaders will certainly be under attack from militants, so reaching agreement on security and a ceasefire will not be an easy task. Even if the two leaders agree, implementation could present problems. On this matter, both leaders will need strong foreign and domestic support. Obviously, there will be a lot of opportunities for Turkish diplomacy to have an impact in the post-summit process."

EDELMAN